REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because: the response was not earlier presented because the Applicant believed in good faith that the cited references did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed.

I.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 3, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0019848 to Sugawara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,623 to Harrison et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed because the combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison does not suggest:

> a post-processing operation adding unit to add an e-mail post-processing operation to the e-mail to be sent;...and
>
> a post-processing operation implementing unit to check whether there is an e-mail post processing operation designated in the received e-mail and to implement the post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail as designated,

as recited in independent claim 1.

The Examiner concedes that Sugawara does not discuss or suggest a post-processing operation adding unit to add an e-mail post-processing operation to the e-mail to be sent and a post-processing operation implementing unit to check whether there is an e-mail post processing operation designated in the received e-mail and to implement the post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail as designated. The Examiner alleges that Harrison makes up for the deficiencies in Sugawara. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Harrison discusses that a data processing system of a computer network includes an Agent responsive to the receipt of a mail message from one of a plurality of remote stations and intended for delivery to a user for processing the message in accordance with a set of rules provided to the Agent by the user. The Agent includes means for inserting into the message a self-contained action record of the actions taken by the Agent on behalf of the user in

accordance with the rules and sends the message with its self-contained action record to the user at a predetermined destination station. The Agent appends into the mail item a statement that says when the mail was received, which rule caused action to be taken, and what action was taken, so that the user would first see any activity the Agent did on his behalf.

Harrison does not discuss or suggest that an e-mail post-processing operation is added to an e-mail to be sent and then, when the e-mail is received, the post-processing operation is implemented to perform post-processing of the e-mail. Harrison discusses that the Agent, before the e-mail is sent to and received at the user, appends to the e-mail a statement as to what action was taken, at the Agent. Thus, when the e-mail is received, the user is able to see what action was taken before the e-mail was sent to the user.

However, Harrison does not suggest that the statement that is appended to the e-mail is a post processing operation, and Harrison does not suggest that when the e-mail is received by the user, the user, at the destination station, checks to see whether there is a post-processing operation designated and then implements the post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail. Harrison discusses only that the statement that is appended to the e-mail is a record statement that lets the user know what action was taken. The statement that is appended to the e-mail is not an operation for post-processing of the e-mail. Further, the statement that is appended to the e-mail is not a post-processing operation that is implemented by the user who has *received* the e-mail in order to perform post-processing of the e-mail. The appended statement only tells the user what has been done, at the Agent, and is only an action record – not the action that is to be taken itself.

Even at the Agent, the Agent processes the message in accordance with a set of rules provided to the Agent by the user. However, the mail message that is received by the Agent does not include a post-processing operation within the mail message that causes the Agent to implement the post-processing operation. An action that the Agent takes is based not on an operation added to an e-mail, but on a set of rules provided to the Agent by the user (and not provided in the e-mail sent from one of the stations). The Agent takes the action according to the rules provided by the user, then inserts the action record of the action taken into the e-mail before the e-mail is sent to the user so that the user is able to determine/remember what action the Agent took.

Thus, neither the Agent nor the destination station of the user check to determine whether there is an e-mail post processing operation designated in the received e-mail and

implement the post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail as designated.

Therefore, as the combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison does not suggest "a post-processing operation adding unit to add an e-mail post-processing operation to the e-mail to be sent;...and a post-processing operation implementing unit to check whether there is an e-mail post processing operation designated in the received e-mail and to implement the post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail as designated," as recited in independent claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, the combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison does not suggest "selecting an e-mail post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail to be sent; [and] inputting information needed for the selected post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail," as recited in independent claim 6. Therefore, claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Also, the combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison does not suggest "checking whether there is an e-mail post-processing operation designated in the received e-mail via an e-mail facsimile machine connected to the e-mail server;...and implementing the memorized post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail," as recited in independent claim 8. Therefore, claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

The combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison additionally does not suggest "a mail sending unit...to allow addition of a specific e-mail post-processing operation to the e-mail to be sent by a sender; and a mail receiving unit that receives e-mails received by the e-mail server to...perform the e-mail post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail," as recited in independent claim 12. Therefore, claim 12 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, the combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison does not suggest "recording a command in response to the selection of the e-mail post-processing operation on a non-standard header of the e-mail;...and implementing the e-mail post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail by checking the post-processing flag," as recited in

independent claim 19. Therefore, claim 19 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

The combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison also does not suggest "determining whether an e-mail post-processing operation exists in a received e-mail by checking a non-standard header of an e-mail;...and implementing the e-mail post-processing operation to perform post-processing of the e-mail by checking the post-processing flag," as recited in independent claim 20. Therefore, claim 20 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

In addition, the combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison does not suggest "a post-processing operation implementing portion to determine whether an e-mail post-processing operation to perform post-processing of a received e-mail is recorded on a non-standard header of the received e-mail," as recited in independent claim 21. Therefore, claim 21 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Also, the combination of the teachings of Sugawara and Harrison does not suggest "a post-processing operation adding portion to add a specific e-mail post-processing operation in order to perform post-processing of an e-mail to the e-mail to be sent," as recited in independent claim 22. Therefore, claim 22 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7, 9-11 and 13-18 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 6, 8 and 12 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. For example, claim 4 recites that "the post-processing operation is to delete the received e-mail located at the e-mail server." Harrison does not discuss or suggest that a post-processing operation is added to the e-mail and that this post-processing operation is an operation to <u>delete</u> the received e-mail. Harrison does not discuss deleting the e-mail at the Agent. Therefore, claims 2-5, 7, 9-11 and 13-18 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-22 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____October 30, 2008_____   By: _____
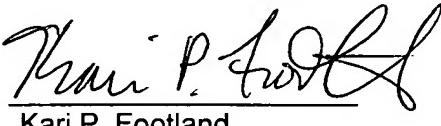
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